

Old Presbyterian Church
New Castle, Delaware

HABS No. Del- 84

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of Delaware

ADDENDUM
FOLLOWS...

Historic American Buildings Survey
Weston H. Blake, District Officer
909 West Street, Wilmington, Delaware.

OLD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
New Castle, New Castle County, Delaware.

Owner: Elders of New Castle Presbyterian Church.

Date of Erection: 1707 and later, but with many interior changes.

Present Condition: Good as to repair. Original church one story, pitch roof with docked gable, original entrance door was on east side and later replaced by window. Porch on west side doorway added later. Brick walls stuccoed during the 19th century and cupola added.

Number of Stories: One and gallery.

Materials of Construction: Brick, plastered interior, stuccoed exterior, tinned roof, formerly shingled.

Other Existing Records: "New Castle on the Delaware", by Delaware Federal Writers' Project, Works Progress Administration, p 64, 65, and 66. J. Thomas Scharf, "History of Delaware", p 873, -4, and -5.

Additional Data: The Old Presbyterian Church succeeded the Dutch Reformed Congregation, whose church, doubtless of logs and built partly on the space now occupied by the present 19th century church building. There are some interesting features in this building, used on other New Castle buildings of the oldest type (late 17th and early 18th century) which may have had an origin in Holland rather than in England. Presumably the earlier Dutch brick-layers and builders worked on during the English period, and doubtless influenced the style. Some of these characteristics, in the church are: (1) The coved cornice (similar to that in the Amstel house); (2) The stepped brick string course, such as exists in the Amstel house and the courthouse, (now concealed by the stucco); and (3) the docked or sliced gables which may be fairly attributed to Dutch influence. These are not only on the main roof, but on the entrance porch as well. Such docked gables are also on Immanuel Church, New Castle, about the same date.

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Note also the inadequate and dangerous chimney top on the ridge, suggesting discomfort and fire risks. The arrangement of the outside blinds is interesting, especially when compared with the dissimilar treatment in Immanuel Church. (HABS. No. Del-79).

Laussat R. Rogers.

Approved

Walter H. Balle
District Officer.

3/10/37 TTW

Addendum to:

Old Presbyterian Church

2nd Street between Harmony and Delaware Streets

New Castle

New Castle County

Delaware

HABS No. DE-84

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PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
MID-ATLANTIC REGION NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19106